

# **Washington State Patrol**

## **Media Release**

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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### **WSP Gears Up for Upcoming Labor Day Weekend**

Troopers on regular patrol and additional troopers funded by the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission Overtime Funds will be out in force for the Labor Day Weekend.

The Labor Day Weekend starts on Friday, September 1st, and concludes on Monday September 5th.

This period is part of a nationwide program called C.A.R.E., which stands for Combined Accident Reduction Effort.

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) will focus its attention on the Interstates looking for seatbelt, speed, aggressive driving and impaired drivers (DUI) violations. Although some troopers will continue to work the Interstate highways as usual during this period, there will be a greater than usual emphasis placed on the other State highways in the District Five region, which includes Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

On Labor Day Weekend in 2005, WSP troopers statewide compiled the following statistics:

	<i>CARE HIGHWAYS</i>	<u>2005</u>
1.	Number of Collisions	85
2.	Number of DUI Arrests	55
3.	Number of Fatal Collisions	2
4.	Number of Fatalities	3
5.	Number of Fatalities Wearing Safety Belts	1

	<i>ALL HIGHWAYS</i>	<u>2005</u>
1.	Number of Fatal Collisions	4
2.	Number of Fatalities	5
3.	Number of Fatalities Wearing Safety Belts	2
4.	Number of DUI Arrests	277
5.	Number of Speed Citations	3150
6.	Number of Safety Belt Citations	490
7.	Number of Safety Belt Warnings	135

8.	Number of Child Restraint Citations	53
9.	Number of Child Restraint Warnings	25
10.	Number of Alcohol Related Collisions	34
11.	Number of Motorist Assists	1006

Through education and the presence of additional troopers, we hope to reduce these numbers on Washington State Highways this year.

WSP hopes that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend before school begins.

Please call me if the Media has any questions or requests for ride-along.

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